Principal’s Report

The trip to France by some of our girls under the supervision of Mrs D’Adamo, Mrs Galliers and Mrs Duggan was highly successful, with some excellent tales to tell. The girls were able to practise their French especially during the homestay part of the journey. However, it is not cheap, so I advise students who would like to join the next trip to start saving now.

Ms Xanthopoulos and I went to China in the last two weeks of term to advertise Victorian Government schools and recruit Chinese students for our International Students Program. We were successful in attracting a number of girls who will arrive from July on. Ms Doanvy Roberts is always looking for homestay families to provide a place for these students, so if you have a spare bedroom and would like to host a girl, please contact her.

Our Executive Team, comprising all Leading Teachers and Principal Class has been discussing where we want to go in the next five years, and what it is we want to focus on to provide the best education for our students.

The need to develop resilience in the younger students is paramount as it will assist them when they get to VCE. To deal with failure and disappointment in a constructive way is a skill we need to develop, knowing that it is better to fail or get a low mark and then work towards a better understanding of the topic so that in final assessments the errors can be eliminated. Parents can assist by supporting their daughters to get things into perspective and not become downhearted or anxious, rather focus on what they can do to achieve a better result next time. It is important that students do not shift blame for their results onto the teacher, but take responsibility for their learning themselves.

Many parents who attended the Parent/Teacher/Student interviews in the last week of Term 1 commented on their frustration that
a. some teachers were fully booked and they couldn’t see them, and
b. missing out of seeing a teacher because some interviews went longer than the allocated five minutes.

We are going to review how we run the P/T/S interviews and hopefully reduce the frustration.

We also welcome parents contacting individual teachers if there are any concerns they have with their daughter’s progress and for complex situations this is far better than waiting until the P/T/S interviews.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
College Matters

Winter Uniform
As the weather gets cooler, I would like to remind families about the College policy on when summer and winter uniform can be worn. As stated in the student diaries: “Either summer or winter uniform may be worn in April and May. All students must wear full winter uniform by 1st June until the end of August.”

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

60th Anniversary Open Day – Saturday 22nd August
Below is a link to a google doc if you have any ideas you would like to contribute:
https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/14j6F2x89WW2e4cdj6beel9Khbr8rifSDFKhtkrB5PMI/edit?usp=docs_home
Or if you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Bronwyn Moline on 9581 5214.

Parent Support

PFA
The next PFA meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm in the staffroom. Discussion items include planning for Open Night and volunteering opportunities for the year ahead. All parents (whether in the PFA or not) are welcome to attend. Drinks and nibbles provided.

Second-Hand Uniform Shop
If you are able to donate your time on a Tuesday morning or a Wednesday afternoon to help in the shop please call on Donna Harrison on 0421 782 123. Thank you to the past and present parents who already volunteer their time.

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

School Council Report
The School Council met on Tuesday 17th March. The College had a busy start to the year, with camps, information evenings and sporting events. The Council was asked to consider Mentone Girls’ Master Plan; this will look at school infrastructure, programs and student numbers moving forward.

The Parent Survey is an important part in school planning and any parents who receive a survey are urged to return the completed survey to the school, this helps the school with all future planning.

The Council will next meet on Tuesday 19th May.

Patty Konstandakos
School Council Member

International Student Program
China Visit 2015
At the end of Term 1, we visited China to promote our school as a government girls-only school. Our College and presentations were received with enthusiasm. It was great to meet so many Chinese families interested in learning about our International Student Program and wishing to enrol their daughters at our school.

Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
ISP and ELC Manager

Senior School News
There will be a change of policy regarding when students can go home if their teachers are absent or involved in school activities which prevent them teaching their class. Until now, no VCE student could leave before lunchtime. Instead they independently worked on what the teacher had left them in the designated classroom. In future, if a student’s teachers are absent and no substitute teacher is assigned to any of these classes for the rest of the day, the student can collect any work left, sign out and leave school. Students, however, are not permitted to leave for some part of the day and then return later.

Planning for the VCE Ball is underway. Please remind your daughter that she must return her contract which
includes your signature as soon as possible.

The Senior School was delighted with the way the VCE girls patronised the Athletics Carnival. The Year 12s made an effort to creatively show their house allegiances and competed enthusiastically, some even negotiating events in cumbersome fancy dress to secure points for their house.

We are pleased to announce that this year parents are offered an inaugural seminar on Wednesday 22nd April where strategies regarding how to support your teenagers will help you feel confident that you are better armed to optimise your daughter’s journey through VCE and the challenging late adolescent years.

With winter approaching, when there is often a higher degree of absence, we must remind parents that students only have a finite number allowed per semester. Several girls have already accrued many at this juncture.

Senior School Team

Year 9 LAS

“My Migrant Story Expo” 6-8pm Tuesday 21st April

You’re cordially invited to attend this year’s Year 9 LAS (Language & Society) Humanities/English exhibition in the newly-refurbished Middle School corridor (just left at the General Office).

Please join your daughter, her classmates and families for a fascinating glimpse into MGSC’s rich multicultural heritage, and discover the many countries and the many reasons members of our school community came to Australia – from as early as 1788 to as recently as 2014!

This is the girls’ major project for Terms 1 and 2, and is always a well-attended event. Do join us!

Mr Randy Marshall
LAS Coordinator

Junior School News

Year 7 & Year 12 Fancy Dress

Year 7 classes have been working hard learning their dance in preparation for their performance this Friday afternoon. The Year 12s have choreographed the Year 7 girls’ dance and organised their outfit. The Fancy Dress is always a great opportunity for Year 7s to get to know Year 12s while having fun. We look forward to their performances.

Year 8 Camp

Year 8 girls are going to The Summit Camp in Trafalgar East in May. 8A, C, D & G are going from Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th May and 8E, B, F & H from Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th May. Payments were due at the end of Term 1. Could you please ensure all payments have been finalised.

Year 8 Drawing Competition

The Year 8 Form Captains organised a drawing competition last term and we have been overwhelmed with the outstanding level of artwork submitted. Congratulations to first place winner – Casey Boswell. Runner up was Joanne Ding and third place was awarded to Hailey Bartholomew. All entries are currently being displayed on the Good News Board.

Junior School Team

Year 7 Famous Australian Women in History Expo

All parents, staff and students are invited to attend the ‘Year 7 Famous Australian Women in History Expo’ which will be held on Tuesday 21st April between 6 and 8pm in the Junior Learning Centre.

Mr Adam Howells
7ALL Coordinator

Science

Brain Awareness March 16th – 20th
Florey Institute Presentation

On Thursday 19th March, the Year 12 Psychology students attended a lunchtime presentation from Jason and Lisa from The Florey Institute. The students heard about
the wonderful opportunities a career in Science can bring, from world travel to contributing to scientific discoveries that change people’s lives. Jason shared his experiences researching autism spectrum disorder, and Lisa gave the girls insight into her research into executive functioning in people with multiple sclerosis. It was an informative session and the students and teachers were grateful for the opportunity.

Ms Eva Bell

**Australian Brain Bee Challenge: Round 1**

14 Year 10 students participated in this competition – we look forward to hearing whether any of them will qualify for Round 2 State titles in Term 2.

Mrs Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

**Ricketts Point Excursion – Unit 2 Biology**

At the end of last term all Unit 2 Biology students participated in an excursion to the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary to further develop their understanding of interactions in ecosystems and the value of conservation and management in our local environment.

**Sport**

**Athletics Carnival**

On Tuesday 24th March the annual MGSC Athletics Carnival was held at the traditional venue – Dolamore Oval. Despite it being Melbourne’s coldest day since October 2014, it turned out to be successful with plenty of enthusiasm for both competition and support of the houses. Evidence of house allegiances was most marked in the various student costumes. Some were prepared to freeze in lifesaver outfits, Harry Potter getups, vibrant body paint, glitter, feathers, fluoro capes, fairy skirts and tutus; but others kept warm in banana suits, blow-up sumo wrestling garb and other assorted disguises. Many entered events for fun to boost house morale, especially some of the Year 12s who always treasure this day as their final sport carnival. The SRC BBQ marshalled by Ms Bell was sold out before lunch was over.

In addition to the conventional track and field program, novelty events took place in the middle of the oval. While there was a lot of frivolity, there was also some serious competition taking place. The overall age group champions from under 13 to open respectively, were: Zoe Cunningham, Taylah Tysoe, Sarsha Berntsen, Sasha Long, Bianca Lawrence and Kristy Ebbott. Zoe Cunningham was a particularly noteworthy performer on the day doubling up as track and field champion for the Under 13 section – she won all 7 of the events she competed in. Well done to Kristy Ebbott for being crowned as the Athletics Open age group champion as well as the Swimming Open age group champion. Congratulations to all the other girls who competed and pushed these star performers to their limits.

As usual the day ran smoothly because of the input of the staff as well as the contribution the students make with their collective positive attitude. Special thanks must be extended to Mr David Shillabeer and Mr Luke de Munk who marshalled the students for the entire day but there were other significant contributors to the day’s success including Ms Anna Berlingeri, Mr Julian Day, Mrs Meredith Hutchins, Mr Gary Hughes, Mr Jonathon Hall, Mr Greg Wallis, Mrs Nola Rees, Ms Eva Bell and Ms Amy Willet. Good luck to those girls who will represent the College in further athletics competition owing to their performances at the Carnival.

**State Little Athletics Championship**

Mentone Girls’ SC students Zoe Cunningham and Kisarna Berntsen competed in the 2015 State Little Athletics Championship at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park on 27th March. Both students have been selected to represent Victoria at the Australian Little Athletics Championship in Perth on 26th April. Zoe won a gold medal in the Under 14 Shot Put, throwing 10.95m on her last attempt and Kisarna won a gold medal in the Under 13 Javelin, throwing a staggering 37.24m. Congratulations girls and good luck in Perth.
Term 1 Interschool Sport

Over Term 1 MGSC has competed in 16 interschool sport competitions with fantastic results. Our Year 7s won 3 of the 4 competitions, Year 8s won 2 of the 4, Intermediates won 2 of the 4 competitions and Seniors won 1 of the 4 which means that we have 8 teams competing at Regionals this term for a chance to advance to the State round robin. Mr Hull and I would like to thank all staff who have coached a team this year. This school’s sporting reputation and the success evident would not exist without the effort and extra hours the staff put into preparing their teams.

Term 2 Interschool Sport

Students interested in competing in badminton, AFL football, netball and soccer interschool sport should please use the sign-up sheets in the gym foyer and check the bulletin boards daily for training notices – alternatively they can visit the individual sport coach whose name is on the sign-up sheets. A reminder for badminton, AFL football, netball and soccer student-coaches to check in with the teacher-coach to plan training and help pick the teams – your role is crucial in Interschool sport and we need you contacting your teacher-coach as soon as possible.

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

English

A reminder that students are welcome to attend English sessions in the library every Thursday after school for extra help with English work. See Ms Rees for details.

English Text Studies Term 2

Parents can support their child’s learning by using the Course Outline in each girls’ English Workbook. You can support your daughter’s progress and inquire about her work with specific understanding of the course content and sequence.

English Text Studies for Term 2 are:

- Year 7: Soul Surfer
- Year 8: Flipped
- Year 9: A Rose for the ANZAC Boys
- Year 10: To Kill a Mockingbird

NAPLAN 2015

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Testing (NAPLAN) will be held at the College from 12th-15th May. Parents can find information in English and translations in most other languages at the following site:


Students wishing to hone their skills with past papers (with answers) can explore these at:

http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/prep10/naplan/schools/naplanwriting.aspx#link47

This year’s writing task will be in either a persuasive or narrative form; it will be unknown until the test day. Preparation on the test format and time management skills will take place in classes. However, we believe our English programs comprehensively develop all the National Curriculum skills, thus extensive NAPLAN pre-test drilling will not occur.

Ms Nola Rees
Director of Teaching & Learning – English & Literacy

Art

Top Designs 2015

Well done to Ella Fajdiga, Year 12 2014, whose Visual Communication Design work is currently being exhibited in the annual Top Designs exhibition at Melbourne Museum. Ella designed and made a logo, business card, poster and beer labels for a bar. Her finished work is on display along with her folio. This is a huge accomplishment for Ella, as thousands of students apply from all over the state, with only 24 students from VCD selected. Ella is currently studying Communication Design at RMIT.
Congratulations to Kat Ritchie, current Year 12, who was shortlisted for Top Designs. Kat undertook Visual Communication Design as a Unit 3 and 4 subject when she was in Year 11. The exhibition runs from Saturday 21st March until Sunday 12th July, 10am-5pm. Year 11 and 12 VCD students will be attending the exhibition on Wednesday 6th May.

Works in the exhibition include furniture and objects made using wood, metal or plastic; garments and articles using fibre, yarn and fabric; graphic and product design; short films; interactive media; publishing; photography; food; and mechanical and electronic projects.

Ms Gemma Johnson
Design Technology Domain Leader

Year 9 Contemporary Art
Packing Tape Jungle

For Term 1, the Year 9 Contemporary Art class created a jungle full of packing tape sculptures. The display featured a white tiger, snake, peacock, giraffe, spider and web, deer, crocodile, toucan, butterfly and frog. The animals were supported with vines, raindrop lanterns, tree branches, mushrooms and flowers. We spent all of Term 1, including some lunchtimes, designing and creating our works of art. We had to listen to the sound of packing tapes being unrolled almost every lesson, and we ended up using 97 rolls of clear plastic packing tape all together!

We created the sculptures by making a skeleton of the animal of our choice, using materials such as newspaper and cardboard. Then we wrapped the skeleton in multiple layers of tape. Then came the decorating. Spray paint and acrylic paint were used to decorate and make our sculptures come to life! Another layer of tape sealed the paint and we put the jungle on display. After all of our hard work, the jungle was finally finished! We’ve received a lot of good feedback and we are glad that members of the school community enjoyed our display.

Meg Meyerheinrich & Molly Nadj
Year 9 Contemporary Art Class

Maths @ MGSC
Maths Competitions Update

Challenging our students to stretch themselves is an important part of the MGSC Maths program. We offer a range of opportunities for students to develop their maths skills by entering challenging maths competitions:

• University of Melbourne – Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics – School Maths Competition: Year 7-12 (entries open)
  Students will sit two to three hour exam papers covering their ability to solve a range of mathematical problems on Wednesday 6th May (8.45-12.15pm – Library Seminar Room). Prizes and certificates will be awarded at a ceremony at Melbourne University. Entries close Friday 17th April.

• University of NSW – ICAS Maths Competition: Year 7-12 (entries closed)
  This competition will be held at school on Tuesday 11th August (period 2). Specific papers are set for Year 7 to 12. They comprise 35 multiple choice/five free response questions to be completed in 60 minutes. Students can practise using www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/prepare/practice_questions. Detailed performance reports and certificates will be awarded mid-October.

• Maths Challenge for Young Australians Competition: Year 7-10 (entries closed)
  Year 7-10 students across Australia will complete a range of problems individually and in groups over a three week period ending early Term 2. Our students are in the process of finalising their responses for submission on Monday 27th April. Distinction, Credit, Proficiency and Participation certificates will be awarded.

• Tournament of Minds: Year 7-10 (entries open)
  This national competition offers a problem solving program for teams of students from primary and secondary years. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges over a six week period and present their solution to judges on tournament day (mid-August – Deakin University). We are calling for students to form teams to represent our school. They should contact Mr Murray (staffroom B).
  And remember... “Maths makes a real difference.”

Maths Domain Team
Do less, not more, for your kids

With school-aged children we can find ourselves making lunches, getting kids out of bed and cleaning out schoolbags rather than giving these basic tasks of living over to them.

Frustrated being the go-between I made sure he had contact details and let him know that it was his job, not my job, to connect with his sister.

**WE EASILY TAKE ON CHILDREN’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is easy as parents to take on the jobs and responsibilities that really should belong to our children. With toddlers it is so easy to dress, feed and clean up after them rather than give these jobs over to them.

With school-aged children we can find ourselves making lunches, getting kids out of bed and cleaning out schoolbags rather than giving these basic tasks of living over to them. And as I discovered, it is easy to still do the basics of life for adult-aged children.

**TIP NO. 1**

for developing independence:

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

**TIP NO. 2**

for developing independence:

Never be more worried about a child’s job than they are, otherwise it becomes your job, not theirs.

This mum remained very clear that it was her job to wash the clothes but not to place them in the washing basket. She would remind kids about washing night, but never nag them to put clothes in the basket. She knows that as soon as she keeps reminding them, it becomes HER job rather than her children’s job to put the washing in the clothes basket.

The school holidays provides a good opportunity to reflect on the whole notion of job-sharing. It’s also a good time for kids to increase their job load when they are not burdened with schoolwork and extracurricular activities.

Here’s my challenge for you: Think of a job that you regularly do for your child that he or she can do for him or herself. Then step back and enable your child to do that for themselves on a full-time basis. Do less not more for your kids.

If you do that, then you can congratulate yourself as you have moved one step more toward REDUNDANCY.

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The Rosie Creators Award for girls 12-20, closes Mon 20 April at midnight. There are four award categories up for grabs - writing, photography, video or community activism. Winners receive $500, will be published in the next edition of Young Vagabond and will each receive a Words With Heart notebook pack. The theme is respect — and the time is now!

For more details, head to rosierespect.org.au/award
KEY DATES | APRIL 2015

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

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<td><strong>17 Yr 7 &amp; 12 Fancy Dress (P4); LT, DR1&amp;2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>21 MGSC Cross Country Carnival Yr 7 ALL &amp; 9 LAS Expo Evening</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 9am College Tour VICT SRC Conference – VCE SRC leaders; Haileybury College Keysborough Campus Singfest (selected students); Cheltenham SC</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 COLLEGE ASSEMBLY (Anzac Day commemeration) Yr 12 Top Arts Excursion; NGV Fed Square</strong></td>
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<td><strong>30 NEWSLETTER #6 10.30am-1pm 9OE1A Rock Climbing Excursion</strong></td>
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 Term 1 Holidays

Year 10 Work Experience week

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<td>House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)</td>
<td>Unit 1 &amp; 3 Vis Com excursion; <em>Melbourne Museum</em></td>
<td>9OE1A Orienteering Excursion</td>
<td>Yr 11 Wired Presentation (P4); LT</td>
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<td><strong>NAPLAN testing</strong></td>
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<td>2-3.30pm Open Afternoon; LT &amp; tours</td>
<td>Yr 10 Dance evening; LT, DR1 &amp; DR2</td>
<td>2-3.30pm Open Afternoon; LT &amp; tours</td>
<td><strong>Year 10 Work Experience week</strong></td>
<td>Senior Winter Round Robin 11.50am-2pm 9OE1B Rock Climbing Excursion</td>
<td>House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)</td>
<td><strong>Year 12 Theatre Studies performance week; DR 1&amp;2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NAPLAN catch up testing day</strong> 1.30-3pm Yr 12 Guest speaker</td>
<td><strong>Year 8 Camp week; Summit Camp, Trafalgar</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.50am-2pm 9OE1B Rock Climbing Excursion</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Music Competition; Gym</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last day Unit 1 Assessments Yr 7 incursion (P4)</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)</strong></td>
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<td>House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)</td>
<td><strong>COLLEGE COUNCIL</strong> 10.30am-1pm 9OE1A Rock Climbing Excursion</td>
<td>STAFF PD DAY (Pupil free) VCE Recital Evening</td>
<td>House Music Competition; Gym</td>
<td>Last day Unit 1 Assessments Yr 7 incursion (P4)</td>
<td><strong>9am College Tour</strong> 6-9pm Yr 7&amp;8 Band Evening</td>
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<td>Beachside Cross Country</td>
<td>9am College Tour 6-9pm Yr 7&amp;8 Band Evening</td>
<td>Yr 7-10 Incursion; Gym Yr 10 Drama Performance Evening</td>
<td>Yr 7 &amp; 9 Immunisations Yr 10 Drama Performance Evening</td>
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